727
241
433
648

Nevertheless, the 1945 harvest - assisted by lend-lease supplies which were still then available, and (beginning in December 1945) by UNRRA relief deliveries - was furnishing the population a fair amount of cereals and bread. There was, however, very little meat from domestic sources, and only a small amount of fats and oils, as the following table shows.

TABLE XII

Ukraine: Production and Utilization of Fats and Oils, 1945.
(thousand metric tons)

727
433
258
262

	Oilseeds	
Production		
Total production of oilseeds		496.4
Deduction for seed		53.6
Available for processing		442.8
Utilization		
(388) Total production of oil		105.8
Deduction for industrial use (soap manufacture, etc.)		26.7
Available for human consumption		
by urban population	29.0	
by rural population	50.0	
Total		79.1
Average consumption		Kilograms per person per year
urban population		2.41
rural population		1.86
Average		1.98

433 As the table shows, the Ukrainian people received in 1945 only 4
262 to 5 kilograms of fats - 8 to 18 kilograms less than their pre-war
388 annual consumption rate.

Disaster in 1946

433 Early in 1946 other UNRRA supplies in addition to food began to
241 arrive - seeds, small quantities of fertilizers, and a few farm tools.
648 Throughout the Ukraine great efforts were being made for a successful spring sowing. However, there were still shortages of seeds, fertilizers, implements, and machinery. None of the 1,600 tractors promised by UNRRA had arrived. Much of the work was still being done by hand, especially where no draught animals were available.

[311] Even despite these drawbacks, it is estimated that about 80 per cent. of the pre-war area was sown; but no figures are available on the acreage planted to individual crops. In April 1946 the UNRRA Mission, describing the difficulties in getting detailed agricultural statistics, stated:

> "....During a recent inspection trip we were informed by the agricultural authorities of the Poltava oblast,[1] one of the best agricultural regions in the Ukraine, that they did not even try to set production goals for their collective farms this year (1946); they simply told each farm to plant as much as possible of whatever crops it could raise with the seed, equipment, draught animals, and manpower available. (For example) We believe that nobody really knows with any degree of accuracy what acreage was planted to oil seeds in the Ukraine this year, what yield may be expected, or how much of the resulting oil will be available for non-farm use."

433 The Ukrainian people set high hopes on the 1946 harvest. However,
241 in the very summer when a good crop would have made all the difference,
648 the greatest drought since 1891 destroyed their prospects. It affected a vast area from Moldavia to the Urals, south to the Kuban and north to Moscow. The earth was parched; and the crops, burnt by the hot summer sun, had little to draw upon because rain and snowfall in the winter of 1945-46 had been poor. Hopes withered with the wheat. The potato crop too was affected: a hot wind out of Asia dried the plants, and dwarfed the tubers.

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1 Oblast: a district similar, for administrative purposes, to a county.